

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: February 12, 2021

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will meet on Monday, February 15th from 6:15 to 7:15 pm. The YAC will begin discussions about promoting and participating in the If I Were Mayor contest.

Travel Oregon Destination Ready Grant

The City applied for a Travel Oregon Destination Ready Grant and the award announcement was scheduled to be made on Thursday, February 11, 2021. The staff at Travel Oregon were thrilled with the quality and quantity of Destination Ready applications they received and on Thursday announced that they have pushed back the announcement date to ensure a thorough review of all the applications. They will send out award announcements as soon as possible within the next two weeks.

Cottage Grove's grant application was for the construction of Streateries (parklets) on Main Street to allow for local downtown restaurants to have additional outdoor seating during the continued restrictions on indoor dining.

Cottage Village Tiny Homes Receives Challenge Grant

Cottage Village, Cottage Grove's tiny house village project on East Madison received a challenge grant of up to \$50,000. For every dollar donation the Storms Family Foundation will match the donation up \$50,000. What a great way to make your donation worth twice as much. With the Cottage Village having \$155,000 left to raise this grant challenge will nearly complete the project.

The Cottage Village is a 13 tiny home project with the first nine of the tiny homes completed last August. Residents moved in during September 2020. With this grant and matching donations, plus an additional \$50k grant currently pending, completion of the remaining homes and community center is in sight. The organization hopes to raise the rest of the funds locally to finish out this project by this summer.

Four of the residents who moved in last September were in the midst of navigating homelessness and all of them were struggling with the crippling cost of housing. One resident, Fawn, had been putting off her hip replacement surgery because she was homeless and had no place to recover.

She is recovering well from the surgery and gets to see her grandchildren much more often now that she has a home. Another resident, Aislinn, was homeless for two years before coming to Cottage Village. She explains, “We have an amazing group of people who just want this place to thrive and people have really gone out of their way to work together in learning to operate this housing cooperative. It’s all been such an incredible experience.”

SquareOne’s Executive Director, Dan Bryant, states, “The support of so many local individuals, churches, businesses and foundations has proven it truly takes a community to raise a village. We look forward to completing Cottage Village so it can provide housing for our community members for generations to come. We invite you to donate and help finish these homes!”

Donations to Cottage Village can be made online at:

<https://www.squareonevillages.org/cvc> or by check to SquareOne Villages, 15 N Polk Street, Eugene, OR 97402 – be sure to write “Cottage Village” in the memo line.

Business Meetings

The City Manager and Shauna Neigh, Chamber Executive Officer held two meetings this week with local businesses to discuss efforts underway to help local businesses survive the continued pandemic restrictions and to collect additional ideas and information that will help the City and Chamber partner on possible opportunities. The two meetings had 12 attendees and spent over two hours combined discussing the current situations.

Oregon Scenic Bikeways

The City Manager met with representatives from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to discuss organizing a meeting with local proponents of the Scenic Bikeways around the State. The major purpose of the meeting would be to bring the Scenic Bikeways around the state together to discuss possible roles in helping rural communities recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic and to update them on the status of OPRD and the Scenic Bikeway program. The City Manager currently serves as the Chair of the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Advisory Committee.

Police Department Openings

The Police Department has opened recruitment for three positions: Volunteer Reserve Police Officer (non-paid), Full-time Police Officer entry level or lateral, and Full-Time Communications Specialist. To apply for the Volunteer Reserve Police Officer, go to the City of Cottage Grove website: <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/jobs>

To apply for either of the two full-time positions, candidates must apply through the National Testing Network. <https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/>

The recruitment for Reserve and full-time police officers are open until filled. The Communications Specialist recruitment closes on Tuesday, March 2nd at 5:00 pm.

Water Treatment Plant Expansion Complete

The Water Treatment Plant microfiltration expansion project was completed this past Monday, and today the Oregon Health Authority issued its Final Approval certification letter. With a total project cost of \$1,123,292.73, the expansion of the microfiltration plant provides an additional 2 million gallons per day, for a total of 6 million gallons per day. The City is now well positioned

to meet the demand of future population growth with high quality potable water, as well as to have the increased capacity to provide fire protection for many years to come.

The consultant team from West Yost Associates, professionally led by Bob Ward, PE., provided plans and specifications, and was instrumental in assisting the City with construction oversight. The general contractor, Pacific Excavation, led by Beau Solesbee, was highly communicative and conscientious, providing excellent, safe construction period services throughout the project.

Weekly Update # 17 Southmayd Family (by Jason Bush)

This week's update is really about working behind the scenes with Operation Second Chance as they fine tune the site and try to teach me new electronic tricks of Drop Boxes, URL's, and Site Maps as they pertain to websites. I think they are thinking of announcing it this Monday, on their site and I will keep everyone posted. Folks that follow this through the Cottage Grove website, I think what will happen is that I will provide the title as above, complete with the date, and then simply the link to the official site. It will have a photo gallery, weekly updates, including all the previous ones, original letters written, links to all our donors' websites, and a place to donate; and again, this is a tax deductible, dollar for dollar savings on you tax bill at the end of the year! I like to think that at least I then know where some of my tax money goes.

Again, anyone with a company logo please get that to me with the company's website address so that we can get it on our sponsor's page.

I contacted a couple of medium to large contractors to get a bid or idea of what it would cost to take the project from the foundation to the point of getting the roof on and drying it in with the assumption that most of the materials have been supplied. This would include the under-floor framing, the structural framing, shear walls, roof trusses and over-framing, and the plywood roofing. They indicated that they would like to meet at the site to get an idea of the foundation pad and project site. I would also like to review the plans with them and the foundation contractor, Shad Lowman of L&L Foundations, to go over things like the eventual final elevation(s) in conjunction with the plan of the TJI's sitting on top of the wall, and any other logistics or concerns that may need to be coordinated or worked out ahead of time.

I have made notes of small changes and other clarifications on the three paper copies of our plans so that when we get going on the project, we will all be on the same page.

Yours in Building Safety, "and" Guarding Our Veterans.

Quote of the Week:

"When you clench your fist, no one can put anything in your hand, nor can your hand pick up anything."

~Alex Haley~